

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of exchanging data between a buyer and a plurality of multiple suppliers via an internet electronic supplier on-line system having a physical infrastructure including a back end supplier on-line server and an internet supplier on-line server, the method comprising:

generating by a buyer a request for a quotation from at least some of the plurality of suppliers for a cost of a part or device;

generating at least one attachment document, at least one of the request for quotation and the at least one attachment document including both engineering information and business information;

determining which of the plurality of suppliers are to be provided with the request for quotation;

inquiring if all suppliers to be provided with the request for quotation are registered on the electronic supplier on-line system;

responsive to the inquiring, registering the suppliers not registered on the electronic supplier on-line system;

notifying the buyer, automatically by the electronic supplier on-line system, of the registration of the suppliers;

selecting which of the generated at least one attachment document are to be attached as part of a service bidding process corresponding to respective non-commodity parts or devices of the request for quotation;

building the request for quotation, including joining the selected generated attachment documents into a request for quotation pack, the request for

quotation pack including the business information and the engineering information, the engineering information to be used by at least one of the suppliers for generating the non-commodity parts or devices;

registering information in the service bidding process for the non-commodity parts or devices;

selecting the suppliers that are to receive the request for quotation pack;

making the request for quotation pack available to selected suppliers on a supplier on-line system web site stored on the internet supplier on-line server, including:

synchronizing the request for quotation with internal and external databases in order to transfer the files to a designated web site;

e-mailing all suppliers that the request for quotation pack is available at the web site;

downloading the request for quotation pack from the internet supplier on-line server to at least one of the suppliers; and

displaying the request for quotation pack on a computing device for the at least one of the suppliers.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further including:

receiving from the supplier a quotation corresponding to the request for quotation pack; and

e-mailing automatically by the electronic supplier on-line system, the buyer that the supplier has entered a quotation.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further including:

analyzing automatically the request for quotation pack to determine a last day available for the supplier to respond;

determining, if the day the quotation is provided by the supplier is prior to the last

day to respond to the request for quotation pack; and
providing the buyer with the capability to review quotations for request for
quotation pack received prior to the last day to respond.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 further including:
determining whether a need exists to alter the last day for responding to a
request for quotation;
altering the last day suppliers may respond to a request for quotation; and
transmitting, automatically, e-mail notifications to the suppliers that the last day to
respond to the request for quotation has been altered.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further including an
action of downloading documentation from sources outside of the electronic supplier on-
line system for inclusion into the request for quotation pack.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further including an
automatic document transfer process which generates files to be included in the request
for quotation pack wherein the automatic document transfer process transfers the
generated files to individual supplier folders maintained on a the back end supplier on-
line server.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 further including an
upload document transfer process wherein a supplier is able to upload document
information to the electronic supplier on-line system which may be received by the
buyer.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further including:
registering part or device number information within the bidding process for the

commodity parts or devices; and
selecting the documentation that is to be attached to individual parts or devices
of the request for quotation to form the request for quotation pack.

10. (Currently amended) A method configured to exchange data between a buyer
and a plurality of suppliers via an electronic on-line communication network having a
physical infrastructure including a back end supplier on-line server and an internet
supplier on-line server, the method comprising:

generating a request for a quotation intended for at least some of the plurality of
suppliers for a cost of a part or device;
determining if the request for the quotation will include attachments;
generating documents for inclusion as attachments to the request for quotation,
the request for quotation and attachments including both engineering and
business documents;
determining that the request for quotation is for a commodity part or device or is
for a non-commodity part or device, and (i) selecting which of the generated
documents are to be attached as part of an item bidding process
corresponding to each of the commodity parts or devices or (ii) selecting which
of the generated documents are to be attached as part of a service bidding
process corresponding to each of the non-commodity parts or devices, the
commodity part or device being found in a catalog;
building the request for quotation, including joining the selected business and
engineering documentation into a request for quotation pack;
registering information in one of the item bidding process for commodity parts or
devices or the service bidding process for non-commodity parts or devices;
selecting the suppliers that are to receive the request for quotation pack;
making the request for quotation pack available to selected suppliers on a an
electronic on-line communication network ~~supplier on-line system web site;~~

synchronizing the request for quotation pack with data of internal and external databases;

receiving from at least one of the selected suppliers by the internet supplier on-line server, a supplier quotation comprising supplier documentation and supplier business information;

generating a buyer notification e-mail by the electronic on-line communication network in response to receiving the supplier quotation; and

displaying the request for quotation pack on a computing device for at least one of the selected suppliers.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 further including: configuring the request for quotation pack for automatic analysis by one of the suppliers to determine a last day available for the supplier to respond; and providing the buyer with the capability to review quotations for request for quotation pack received prior to the last day to respond.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein the action of making the request for quotation with the attached documents available to select suppliers includes synchronizing the data in the request for quotation with internal and external databases in order to transfer the files to a designated web site.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10 further including an action of downloading documentation from sources outside of the electronic on-line communication network ~~supplier on-line system~~ for inclusion into the request for quotation pack.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 further including: registering part or device number information within the bidding process for the commodity parts or devices; and selecting the documentation that is to be attached to individual parts or devices

of the request for quotation to form the request for quotation pack.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 10 further including:~~A method configured to exchange data between a buyer and a plurality of suppliers via an electronic on-line communication network having a physical infrastructure including a back end supplier on-line server and an internet supplier on-line server, the method comprising:

generating a request for a quotation intended for at least some of the plurality of suppliers for a cost of a part or device;

determining if the request for the quotation will include attachments;

generating documents for inclusion as attachments to the request for quotation, the request for quotation and attachments including both engineering and business documents;

determining that the request for quotation is for a commodity part or device or is for a non-commodity part or device, and (i) selecting which of the generated documents are to be attached as part of an item bidding process corresponding to each of the commodity parts or devices or (ii) selecting which of the generated documents are to be attached as part of a service bidding process corresponding to each of the non-commodity parts or devices, the commodity part or device being found in a catalog;

building the request for quotation, including joining the selected business and engineering documentation into a request for quotation pack;

registering information in one of the item bidding process for commodity parts or devices or the service bidding process for non-commodity parts or devices;

selecting the suppliers that are to receive the request for quotation pack;

making the request for quotation pack available to selected suppliers on an electronic on-line communication network web site;

synchronizing the request for quotation pack with data of internal and external databases;

receiving from at least one of the selected suppliers by the internet supplier on-line server, a supplier quotation comprising supplier documentation and supplier business information;

generating a buyer notification e-mail by the electronic on-line communication network in response to receiving the supplier quotation;

displaying the request for quotation pack on a computing device for at least one of the selected suppliers; and

downloading the engineering documents to at least one of a CAD workstation, a plotter, and a CNC machine, wherein the engineering documents control operation of the at least one of the CAD workstation, the plotter, and the CNC machine which generates at least one of a printed document or a manufactured part.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 46-10 further including:

determining by the electronic on-line communication network ~~supplier-online system~~ a close-closed day for the request for quotation pack; and

prohibiting reception of the supplier quotation after the determined closed day.